

FINAL NOTICE! ACT NOW!



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Buffalo District

April 16, 2004

Good news for all with an interest in the upcoming *Actions Toward a Sustainable Great Lakes* conference! The deadline for reserving sleeping rooms at the Sheraton Cleveland City Centre hotel has been extended, as has the requested deadline for conference registration. **You can now register through Tuesday, April 27! Please do so by going online at www.glc.org/meeting or promptly faxing/ mailing in the attached registration form.** (Registration is still possible after this date but the conference rate for sleeping rooms is not guaranteed.)

Additional good news is reflected in the revised preliminary program you will find in this mailing. We are pleased to note that some 26 agencies and organizations are official conference partners, representing a diversity of entities from the public, private and citizen sectors. These partners have assumed leadership in conference design, and are responsible for the more than 70 individuals who will participate as speakers, facilitators and resource people for the many plenary and concurrent sessions.

The special sessions and speaker lineup, of course, are designed for one reason only. We want to provide the best possible forum for participant dialogue on two key questions:

- ▶ What is being done to advance the notion of sustainability in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region?
- ▶ How can we, as a community of diverse interests, work together effectively to achieve sustainability?

All comments and observations will be duly recorded and presented, without attribution, in conference proceedings that will be widely distributed to the region's policy makers and opinion leaders. As we've said before, the emphasis is on actions and outcomes. For this reason, the concurrent sessions are organized around leading restoration and protection themes that have emerged within the region in recent years. Simply put, we're not interested in generating yet another list of unmet needs- this has been done many times before. Our interest is in identifying specific actions that are being, or will be, taken to address these needs.

To help publicize initiatives and commitments of your own agency or organization, we encourage you to submit a brief, 1-2 page "extended abstract" that highlights your contributions toward a sustainable Great Lakes. This summary will be included in conference proceedings, and offers a great opportunity to showcase your efforts. **Please direct this statement to Rita Straith at rstraith@glc.org by April 27.**

Finally, please don't forget to take advantage of the special registration discount that will allow you to also attend the 2004 Semiannual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission on May 3-4 at the same location. Come join the region's policy leadership – including state, provincial, federal agency and nongovernmental officials – in their deliberations and actions on a range of leading environmental and economic issues.

Thank you, and see you in Cleveland!

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey M. Hall in black ink.

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Handwritten signature of Michael J. Donahue in black ink.

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Attachments